Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, In the United States, one person dies by suicide every 16.6 minutes, and it is estimated that 4.47 million people in the United States are survivors of the suicide of a loved one; and,

Whereas, South Dakota ranked 22nd nationally for the number of suicides per 100,000 people in 2002; and,

Whereas, Suicide is now the 11th leading cause of all deaths in the state of South Dakota, and was the 2nd leading cause of death among people from the age of 15 to 24 in South Dakota; and,

Whereas, There were 94 suicide deaths in South Dakota in 2002, and suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death in children ages 5 to 14 in South Dakota; and,

Whereas, The risk for suicide can be reduced through awareness, education, and treatment; and,

Whereas, The stigma associated with mental illness works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking lifesaving help, and the stigma associated with suicide further traumatizes those people who lose a loved one to suicide; and,

Whereas, It has been acknowledged that suicide is a major health problem, and its risk can be reduced through the support of educational programs, research projects, and intervention services:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 4 – 10, 2005, as

SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eleventh Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State